



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/765,395	01/28/2004	Hiroyuki Minaguchi	008312-0307954	2549
909	7590	08/15/2005	EXAMINER	
PILLSBURY WINTHROP SHAW PITTMAN, LLP			WRIGHT, INGRID D	
P.O. BOX 10500			ART UNIT	
MCLEAN, VA 22102			PAPER NUMBER	
			2835	
DATE MAILED: 08/15/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

AK

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/765,395	Applicant(s) MINAGUCHI ET AL.	
	Examiner Ingrid Wright	Art Unit 2835	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 January 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1/28/04, 4/22/05</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lo (US PN 6762928 B2) in view of Wang et al. (US 6659516 B2).

With respect to claim 1, Lo teaches (Fig. 1) a notebook computer comprising: a first housing (120), a second housing (110), hinges (130) which connect the two housings (120,110), and a latch mechanism (150,160) which fixes the first housing (120) and second housing (110) in the overlaid state, wherein the latch mechanism (150,160) comprises a hook member (150) which is projected from the second housing (110), and inserted into the first housing (120) in the state the second housing (110) is overlaid on the first housing (120), a lock member (251) which is built in the first housing (120), and engaged with the hook member (150) in one end, holding the first housing (120) and second housing (110) in the overlaid state, a push member (230) which pushes the hook member (150) inserted into the first housing (120) toward the outside of the first housing (120) and a button (250) that presses the lock member (251) to disengage the lock member (251) from the hook member (150).

Lo fails to teach the lock member rotating in response to pressing the button (250) and instead teaches linear movement of the lock button (col. 3, lines 38-48).

Wang et al. teaches (Fig. 4,6) a latching mechanism comprising a button (318) that presses one end of the lock member (300) rotates the lock member around a rotation shaft (304) and disengages the lock member (300) from the hook member (204) (col. 9, lines 17-23).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the locking member with pivotal movement as taught by Lo instead of the linear movement used therein as an alternate equivalent means of allowing the locking member to be released from the hook.

With respect to claim 2, Wang et al. teaches (Fig. 4) a latching mechanism comprising a torsion coil spring (314) causes the lock member (300) to rotate around the rotation shaft (304) until it reaches a stop surface (316) near the button (318) (col. 8, lines 31-39).

With respect to claim 3, Lo teaches (Fig. 3) the button (250) exposed to the outside surface of the first housing (120) not covered by the second housing (110).

With respect to claim 4, Lo teaches (Fig. 3) that while a lock member (251) releases the hook member (150), the push member (230), comprising a top plate (see upper surface portion of push member (230) in fig. 3), presses the hook member (150) upward with power stored by a spring (240) (col. 3, lines 49-55).

With respect to claim 5, Lo teaches (Fig. 1-3) a notebook computer comprising a main unit (120) which has an opening (see, for example, (280) in fig. 3) a display panel (110) which is connected to the main unit (120), rotatable between an opened position and a closed position to the main unit (120), a hook member (150) which is provided in the display panel, and inserted into the opening (280) when the display panel (110) is at the closed position, a button (250) which is provided in the main unit (120) and a push member (230) which is provided in the main unit (120) and presses the hook member (150) from the closed position to the opened position of the display panel (110), interlocking with the depression of the button (250) (col. 3, lines 1-37).

Lo does not teach a lock member having a rotation shaft or a button to rotate the lock member.

Wang et al. teaches (Fig. 4) a latch mechanism comprising a lock member (300) which has a rotation shaft (304), and is rotatable around the rotation shaft (304) between an engage position where one end is engaged with the hook member (204), and a release position where the engagement with the hook member (204) is released

Art Unit: 2835

and a button (318) that rotates the lock member (300) from the engage position to the release position (col. 7, lines 24-53 & col. 8, lines 59-61).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the locking member with pivotal movement as taught by Lo instead of the locking member with linear movement of Wang et al., in order to provide an alternate equivalent means of allowing the locking member to be released from the hook.

With respect to claim 6, Lo teaches (Fig. 3) a spring (260) that is attached to the lock member (251) and urges one end of the lock member (251) toward the engage position at all times (col. 3, lines 26-31 & col. 4, lines 33-34).

With respect to claim 7, Lo teaches (Fig. 3) a spring (240) that is attached to the push member (230), and urges the push member (230) toward the opening (280) until the LCD module is opened to the predetermined distance or more (col. 3, lines 49-57).

With respect to claim 8, Lo teaches (Fig. 3) a button (250) which is provided and exposed in the front edge of the main unit (120) (col. 3, lines 26-31).

With respect to claim 9, Lo teaches (Fig. 3) a spacer (top upper surface plate portion of push member (230) in fig. 3) which is provided to press the hook member

Art Unit: 2835

(150) and arranged near the hook member (150) and one end of the push member (230) when the display panel (110) is at the closed position.

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Seto et al. (US PN 6175488 B1), Ooka et al. (US PN 5784253), Howell et al. (US PN 6297947 B1), Kung et al. (US PN 6310768 B1), Bovio et al. (US PN 6202256 B1), Lam et al. (US PN 6505382 B1), Ohgami et al. (US PN 5168423), Polany et al. (US 2005/0123161 A1), Amemiya et al. (US PN 6473296 B2), Sasaki et al. (US 2002/0172002 A1), Sato et al. (US PN 6332658 B1), Shimamo et al. (US PN 6829140 B2), Kubota (US PN 6823067 B1), & Ponce De Leon et al. (US PN 6697022 B2) show the general state of the art regarding electronic or computer structures with display, hook and latch configurations.


4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ingrid Wright whose telephone number is (571) 272-8392. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn Feild can be reached on (571) 272-2800, ext 35. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2835

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

8/11/05
IDW



LYNN FELD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800